

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2750
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
INDO-SINO TIES
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the areas in which Indo-Sino Cooperation have been established;
- (b) whether the Government have a proposal to improve Indo-Sino ties; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a): India and China have established cooperative relations in several fields. India and China have MOUs / working groups in information technology, labour, coal, steel, science and technology, etc. Bilateral trade has grown in recent years. Bilateral trade in 2001 increased by 23.4% over 2000 to reach US\$ 3.596 billion.

(b)-(c): Government of India is committed to the development of friendly and good neighbourly relations with China on the basis of the principles of Panchsheel, mutual sensitivity to each others concerns and equality. This has been underscored during recent high level political exchanges between India and China, including during the visit of President to China in May-June 2000, visit of senior Chinese leader and NPC Chairman Mr. Li Peng in January 2001 and the visit of Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji in January 2002.

During the visit of Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji, the two sides signed six MOUs / Agreements on cooperation pertaining to science and technology, outer space, tourism, phytosanitary measures and supply of hydrological data by China to India in respect of the Brahmaputra river during the flood season. These documents reflect the expansion and diversification of India-China relations.

The two Prime Ministers also agreed

- (i) to accelerate the process of clarification and confirmation of the alignment of the Line of Actual Control along the India-China boundary;
- (ii) to establish a bilateral dialogue mechanism against terrorism. Modalities are being discussed between the Foreign Ministries; and
- (iii) to hold the Seventh Meeting of the Ministerial level Joint Economic Group to look at ways and means of strengthening trade and economic cooperation.

Prime Minister has been invited to visit China and has accepted the invitation. Dates for the visit will be settled through diplomatic channels.